

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please make the following amendments:

1-3.(Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An improved fishing hook having an outer surface comprised essentially of titanium or an alloy of titanium and an inner layer comprised of stainless steel, wherein said outer surface is deposited onto said inner layer via physical vapor deposition.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (New) An improved fishing hook, comprising:

a metallic core member having a tip and a barb; and

a surface layer comprised of a titanium alloy deposited onto said metallic core member via physical vapor deposition, said surface layer having an inner surface adhered to said metallic core member and an outer surface exposed to atmosphere;

wherein said titanium alloy has a richer portion of titanium at said inner surface than at said outer surface.

8. (New) An improved fishing hook according to claim 1 wherein said surface layer is comprised of TiN, wherein said outer surface layer is richer in nitrogen than said inner surface layer.
9. (New) A process for depositing titanium or titanium alloy onto a fishing hook comprising the steps of:
- placing a fishing hook within a vacuum chamber, said vacuum chamber having a cathode where said cathode has an evaporation surface material, said vacuum chamber further being in combination with a bias power supply;
  - positioning said fishing hook within said vacuum chamber;
  - supplying a gas within said vacuum chamber such that said gas surrounds said fishing hook;
  - starting an electrical arc within said vacuum chamber thereby producing a plasma, comprising ionized particles of said gas and ionized particles of said cathode evaporation surface material; and
  - adjusting said bias power supply to a bias potential to optimize coating of said fishing hook.